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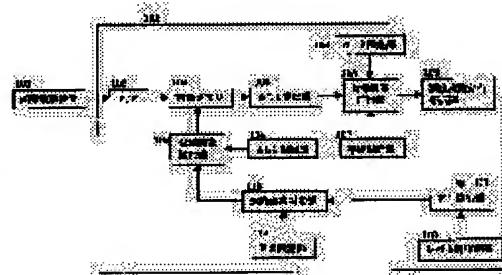
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(54) IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD AND APPARATUS THEREOF

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide an image processing method and an image processing apparatus for greatly reducing the correction processing time of dust noise and improving the productivity of high-quality image data, by automatically detecting the dust noise contained in image data as defective pixels for correction, and further for adding the elimination of the dust noise also in a series of automatic processing from the reading to the output of the image data.

SOLUTION: An arbitrary pixel to be noticed is compared with a nearby pixel to extract a pixel within a specific range including the pixel to be noticed for satisfying specific conditions as a target pixel. A histogram is created for the extracted target pixel, and the flatness of a given region is confirmed according to histogram characteristics, thus verifying that the defective pixel is included in the given region. When the defective pixel is included, a pixel where the gradation level with a correction value determined according to given conditions satisfies specific conditions is extracted as a defective pixel, thus substituting the correction value for the defective pixel.



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1]An image processing method which processes image data constituted by pixel, comprising:

An object picture element detection process which detects an object picture element group containing a noticed picture element from which a difference of a gradation level with a neighborhood picture element becomes beyond the 1st threshold from said image data.

A defect pixel determination process judged to be that in which said object picture element contains a defect pixel when a criterion value is calculated based on concentration frequency distribution which comprises said object picture element and this criterion value turns into beyond the 2nd threshold.

A correcting process which a gradation level difference with an adjusted value calculated from said concentration frequency distribution among said object picture elements extracts a pixel which is beyond the 3rd threshold as said defect pixel, and corrects this defect pixel using said adjusted value.

[Claim 2]An image processing method which processes image data constituted by pixel, comprising:

An object picture element detection process which detects an object picture element group containing a noticed picture element from which a difference of a gradation level with a neighborhood picture element becomes beyond the 1st threshold from said image data.

A defect pixel determination process judged to be that in which said object picture element contains a defect pixel when the 1st and 2nd criterion values are calculated based on concentration frequency distribution which comprises said object picture element and these 1st and 2nd criterion values turn into [both] beyond the 2nd threshold.

A correcting process which both gradation level differences with the 1st and 2nd adjusted values calculated from said concentration frequency distribution among said object picture elements extract a pixel which is beyond the 3rd threshold as said defect pixel, and corrects this defect pixel using either said 1st [the] or the 2nd adjusted value.

[Claim 3]The image processing method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said object picture element is a pixel group in a fixed range centering on said noticed picture element.

[Claim 4]The image processing method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said criterion value is a rate over the total number of object picture elements of pixel frequency which is in a fixed gradation range in said concentration frequency distribution.

[Claim 5]The image processing method according to claim 2, wherein said 1st and 2nd criterion values are the rates over said total number of object picture elements of pixel frequency which is in a fixed gradation range which does not overlap mutually in said concentration frequency distribution.

[Claim 6]The image processing method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said adjusted value is given as average value of a pixel used in order to compute said criterion value.

[Claim 7]The image processing method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said adjusted value is given as a mean value of a gradation level range which a pixel used in order to compute said criterion value can take.

[Claim 8]The image processing method according to claim 1 or 2 replacing in said correcting process by an adjusted value to which said defect pixel was given by claim 6 or 7.

[Claim 9]The image processing method according to claim 2 choosing the 1st or the 2nd adjusted

value, and replacing a defect pixel by comparing the 1st and 2nd pixel numbers used in said correcting process in order to compute said 1st and 2nd criterion values.

[Claim 10] An image processing device which processes image data constituted by pixel, comprising:

An object picture element detection process which detects an object picture element group containing a noticed picture element from which a difference of a gradation level with a neighborhood picture element becomes beyond the 1st threshold from said image data.

A defect pixel determination process judged to be that in which said object picture element contains a defect pixel when a criterion value is calculated based on concentration frequency distribution which comprises said object picture element and this criterion value turns into beyond the 2nd threshold.

A correcting process which a gradation level difference with an adjusted value calculated from said concentration frequency distribution among said object picture elements extracts a pixel which is beyond the 3rd threshold as said defect pixel, and corrects this defect pixel using said adjusted value.

[Claim 11] An image processing device which processes image data constituted by pixel, comprising:

An object picture element detection process which detects an object picture element group containing a noticed picture element from which a difference of a gradation level with a neighborhood picture element becomes beyond the 1st threshold from said image data.

A defect pixel determination process judged to be that in which said object picture element contains a defect pixel when the 1st and 2nd criterion values are calculated based on concentration frequency distribution which comprises said object picture element and these 1st and 2nd criterion values turn into [both] beyond the 2nd threshold.

A correcting process which both gradation level differences with the 1st and 2nd adjusted values calculated from said concentration frequency distribution among said object picture elements extract a pixel which is beyond the 3rd threshold as said defect pixel, and corrects this defect pixel using either said 1st [the] or the 2nd adjusted value.

[Claim 12] The image processing device according to claim 10 or 11, wherein said object picture element is a pixel group in a fixed range centering on said noticed picture element.

[Claim 13] The image processing device according to claim 10 or 11, wherein said criterion value is a rate over the total number of object picture elements of pixel frequency which is in a fixed gradation range in said concentration frequency distribution.

[Claim 14] The image processing method device according to claim 2, wherein said 1st and 2nd criterion values are the rates over said total number of object picture elements of pixel frequency which is in a fixed gradation range which does not overlap mutually in said concentration frequency distribution.

[Claim 15] The image processing method device according to claim 10 or 11, wherein said adjusted value is given as average value of a pixel used in order to compute said criterion value.

[Claim 16] The image processing device according to claim 10 or 11, wherein said adjusted value is given as a mean value of a gradation level range which a pixel used in order to compute said criterion value can take.

[Claim 17] The image processing device according to claim 10 or 11 replacing in said correcting process by an adjusted value to which said defect pixel was given by claim 15 or 16.

[Claim 18] The image processing device according to claim 11 choosing the 1st or the 2nd adjusted value, and replacing a defect pixel by comparing the 1st and 2nd pixel numbers used in said correcting process in order to compute said 1st and 2nd criterion values.

[Claim 19] An object picture element detection means to detect an object picture element group containing a noticed picture element to which a difference of a gradation level with a neighborhood picture element becomes beyond the 1st threshold from said image data about a computer, A defect pixel judging means judged to be that in which said object picture element contains a defect pixel when a criterion value is calculated based on concentration frequency distribution which comprises said object picture element and this criterion value turns into beyond the 2nd threshold, A computer program making it function as a correcting means which a gradation level difference with an adjusted value calculated from said concentration frequency distribution among said object picture elements extracts a pixel which is beyond the 3rd threshold as said defect pixel, and corrects this defect pixel using said adjusted value.

[Claim 20] An object picture element detection means to detect an object picture element group containing a noticed picture element to which a difference of a gradation level with a neighborhood picture element becomes beyond the 1st threshold from said image data about a computer. The 1st and 2nd criterion values are calculated based on concentration frequency distribution which comprises said object picture element. A defect pixel judging means judged to be that in which said object picture element contains a defect pixel when these 1st and 2nd criterion values turn into [both] beyond the 2nd threshold. Both gradation level differences with the 1st and 2nd adjusted values calculated from said concentration frequency distribution among said object picture elements extract a pixel which is beyond the 3rd threshold as said defect pixel. A computer program making it function as a correcting means which corrects this defect pixel using either said 1st [the] or the 2nd adjusted value.

[Claim 21] The computer program according to claim 19 or 20 operating a computer with said object picture element being a pixel group in a fixed range centering on said noticed picture element.

[Claim 22] The computer program according to claim 19 or 20 operating a computer with said criterion value serving as a rate over the total number of object picture elements of pixel frequency in a fixed gradation range in said concentration frequency distribution.

[Claim 23] The computer program according to claim 20 operating a computer with said 1st and 2nd criterion values serving as a rate over said total number of object picture elements of pixel frequency which is in a fixed gradation range which does not overlap mutually in said concentration frequency distribution.

[Claim 24] The computer program according to claim 19 or 20 operating a computer with said adjusted value being given as average value of a pixel used in order to compute said criterion value.

[Claim 25] The computer program according to claim 19 or 20 operating a computer with said adjusted value being given as a mean value of a gradation level range which a pixel used in order to compute said criterion value can take.

[Claim 26] The computer program according to claim 19 or 20 operating a computer with replacing in said correcting process by an adjusted value to which said defect pixel was given by claim 24 or 25.

[Claim 27] By comparing the 1st and 2nd pixel numbers used in said correcting process in order to compute said 1st and 2nd criterion values. The computer program according to claim 19 or 20 operating a computer with choosing the 1st or the 2nd adjusted value, and replacing a defect pixel.

[Claim 28] A computer readable storage medium storing a computer program of a statement in any 1 paragraph of claims 19 thru/or 26.

[Translation done.]

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION**[Detailed Description of the Invention]****[0001]**

[Field of the Invention]This invention relates to the image processing method and image processing device which correct the dust noise by the dust etc. which are applied to an image processing method and an image processing device, especially are contained in given image data.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art]There are some which generally electronic-data-ize the picture drawn on the manuscript as one of the techniques of generating electronic image data using picture input devices, such as a scanner. By this technique, although image data is generable simple, the dust adhering to a manuscript, the dirt adhering to the reading surface of the picture input device, etc. will be read as image data. For this reason, the image of that dirt was included as a noise which originally is not an ingredient of a picture.

[0003]The technique of taking the average value of the picture element data of the circumference to the noticed picture element considered to be a noise as such a removing method of a noise was taken.

[0004]A noise is identified to a processing object image and there is JP,4-316275,A to perform a solvent wiping removal to the noise. When image data is scanned per window of the predetermined size centering on a noticed picture element in this noise rejection method, The window is divided into two or more blocks, and when only the number beyond the 2nd threshold exists in a block of the pixel from which a gradation level difference with a noticed picture element becomes beyond the 1st threshold and the pattern of the block is predetermined shape, a noticed picture element is judged to be a noise. Next, noise correction processing is performed in calculating ***** and replacing the result of having classified the pixel whose gradation level difference with a noticed picture element is beyond the 3rd threshold at intervals of the predetermined level about the pixel in a window, and having compared the pixel number between the level by noticed picture element data.

[0005]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention]However, there is a problem which degrades pictures other than the noise of the outline of an object fading by the technique of taking the average value of the surrounding picture element data to a noticed picture element, In a correcting method like JP,4-316275,A, the above-mentioned judgment procedure will have to be stepped on to all the pixels which constitute a picture, and extracting a noise pixel will take time. Since it must ask for the gradation level for replacing to one pixel judged to be a noise from two or more pixels, time will be required also about correction processing.

[0006]This invention was made in view of this point, and the purpose is to detect automatically the dust noise contained in image data as a defect pixel, and to correct it, While shortening the correction processing time of a dust noise substantially, the productivity of high-definition image data is raised, and it is in providing the image processing method and image processing device which can add removal of a dust noise also in a series of automatic processings from reading of image data to an output further.

[0007]

[Means for Solving the Problem]In order to solve the above-mentioned technical problem, a place by which it is characterized [of the invention according to claim 1 in this application] is in an image processing method comprising and an image processing device.

[0008](a) The 1st calculating process that computes a gradation level difference of arbitrary

pixels of image data, and a neighborhood picture element of said arbitrary pixel top, the bottom, the left, or/and the right.

[0009](b) The 1st extraction process that extracts arbitrary pixels which become beyond the 1st predetermined threshold, and a neighborhood picture element centering on said arbitrary pixels as an object picture element based on said 1st calculating process result.

[0010](c) The 2nd calculating process that computes a predetermined criterion value and an adjusted value based on concentration frequency distribution which comprises said object picture element.

[0011](d) The 1st determination process judged as said object picture element containing a defect pixel based on said 2nd calculating process when said criterion value turns into beyond the 2nd predetermined threshold.

[0012](e) The 2nd extraction process that extracts a pixel which becomes beyond the 3rd [predetermined in a gradation level difference with said adjusted value] threshold as a defect pixel about said object picture element.

[0013](f) A correcting process which corrects said defect pixel using said adjusted value.

[0014]A place by which it is characterized [of the invention according to claim 2 in this application] is in an image processing method comprising and an image processing device.

[0015](a) The 1st calculating process that computes a gradation level difference of arbitrary pixels of image data, and a neighborhood picture element of said arbitrary pixel top, the bottom, the left, or/and the right.

[0016](b) The 1st extraction process that extracts arbitrary pixels which become beyond the 1st predetermined threshold, and a neighborhood picture element centering on said arbitrary pixels as an object picture element based on said 1st calculating process result.

[0017](c) The 2nd calculating process that computes the 1st and 2nd predetermined criterion value and 1st and 2nd adjusted values based on concentration frequency distribution which comprises said object picture element.

[0018](d) The 1st determination process judged as said object picture element containing a defect pixel based on said 2nd calculating process when said 1st and 2nd criterion values turn into beyond the 2nd predetermined threshold.

[0019](e) The 2nd extraction process that extracts a pixel which becomes beyond the 3rd [predetermined in both gradation level differences with said 1st and 2nd adjusted values] threshold as a defect pixel about said object picture element.

[0020](f) A correcting process which corrects said defect pixel using either said 1st [the] or the 2nd adjusted value.

[0021](Work for) In an image processing device of this invention, a pixel of a prescribed range containing a noticed picture element which measures arbitrary noticed picture elements and neighborhood picture elements, and fulfills predetermined conditions is extracted as an object picture element. A histogram is created about an extracted object picture element, the surface smoothness of a given field is checked from the characteristic of a histogram, and it checks that a defect pixel is contained in a given field. When a defect pixel is contained, a gradation level with correction value determined according to given conditions extracts a pixel which fulfills predetermined conditions as a defect pixel, and replaces a defect pixel with correction value.

[0022]Image deterioration can be prevented by this, and from one noticed picture element, two or more dust noise pixels can be specified, correction processing can be carried out, and time to start total dust noise detection and correction processing can be shortened.

[0023]

[Embodiment of the Invention]The embodiment which applied this invention to below based on the drawing is described in detail and concretely.

[0024](A 1st embodiment) Drawing 1 is a block diagram showing the functional constitution of the image processing device provided with the image processing portion 102 which applied this invention. In drawing 1, 101 is an image reader which reads image data. As an image reader, lay a manuscript, for example on platen glass, and a manuscript is irradiated through platen glass, Optoelectric transducers, such as CCD which condensed the catoptric light and has been arranged to the focal plane, generate the electrical signal for every pixel according to image concentration, and the optical image scanner outputted as image data which digitized the signal is used.

[0025]An interface (I/F) for 103 to input image data from the image processing portion 102, The image memory 104 remembers image data to be, and 105 deltaLgradation level difference 1 calculation part, 106 deltaLgradation level difference threshold value 2 set part and 107 a radius

set part and 108 An object picture element extraction part, 109 — as for rate threshold of flatness F2 set part, and 113, a gradation level width set part and 111 are [deltaLgradation level difference threshold value 3 set part and 115] defect pixel corrected parts a defect pixel judgment part and 114 the rate F1 calculation part of flatness, and 112 a concentration-frequency-distribution preparing part and 110.

[0026]In the composition of drawing 1, the image processing method in a 1st embodiment is explained in detail, referring to drawing 3 and concentration-frequency-distribution drawing 4 in which the flow chart of drawing 2 and picture-element-data arrangement are shown. In drawing 2, image data is already read by the image reader 101, and makes the initial state the state where it is stored in the image memory 104.

[0027]In Step S201, first the deltaL1 calculation part 105, As image data is read from the image memory 104 and it is shown in drawing 3, paying attention to arbitrary picture-element-data A of them Gradation level difference deltaL1x of this noticed picture element A and the comparison position pixels L and M of that left-hand side, Gradation level difference deltaL1y of the noticed picture element A and the upper comparison position pixels D and I is computed as follows. A which is numerals which show a pixel, B, etc. are used also as numerals which show the concentration gradation of the pixel as it is. In order not to leak and to scan the whole picture as a selection method of the noticed picture element A, the method of choosing one by one in order of raster scanning is desirable.

[0028]

$$\text{deltaL1x} = ** \text{Ax2} - (\text{L} + \text{M}) ** \quad (1)$$

$$\text{deltaL1y} = ** \text{Ax2} - (\text{D} + \text{I}) ** \quad (2)$$

The large value of this deltaL1x and deltaL1y is made into the gradation level difference deltaL1 of the noticed picture element A. This calculation processing is performed by the deltaLgradation level difference 1 calculation part 105. In the case of color image data, it is performed as follows, for example. Difference deltaL1xr of the gradation level of a noticed picture element and a pixel on either side, deltaL1xg, and deltaL1xb are calculated for every color component of RGB, and those sums are used for it as deltaL1x of a formula (1). It asks similarly about deltaLy. This method is the same also about the following explanation or other embodiments, and when searching for the difference of a gradation level, it can be obtained in this way.

[0029]The calculating method of deltaL1 is not having restricted to the above-mentioned example, and may use either deltaL1x or deltaL1y. It is good also as a calculating method of using a longitudinal direction and a sliding direction without using left-hand side and the upper part direction for calculation of deltaL1x or deltaL1y. Also in such a case, the gradation level difference of a noticed picture element and a comparison position pixel is used as deltaL1x or deltaL1y. When determining deltaL1, in this embodiment, only the pixel which followed the noticed picture element and one way is used, but the comparison position pixel which separated 2 pixels or more from the noticed picture element may be used.

[0030]deltaL1 is a value computed in order to use the local correlativity which image data has that the correlation degree of the pixel value which constitutes that locally is high. Therefore, if it is a range which can expect to correlate with the noticed picture element as a pixel of the comparison object to a noticed picture element, it can choose. That is, although the pixel which separated 2 pixels or more from the noticed picture element may be used, you must not be any pixel at all, but it is necessary to be a pixel near the noticed picture element, and it good to choose an adjacent pixel like [it is desirable and] this embodiment. This range is changed also with the resolution at the time of reading the size and image data of a dust noise which are assumed. For example, when 2 pixels left by a certain fixed pixel number are observed, if it is high resolution in order for the physical size of a dust noise not to change, even if it has a correlation degree of a certain grade, the correlation degree falls with a low resolution. Here, the range which can expect to correlate with the noticed picture element in image data shall be called near the noticed picture element.

[0031]Next, in Step S202, it is judged whether by the object picture element extraction part 108, the 1st threshold deltaL2 and gradation level difference deltaL1 that were set up by the 1st deltaLthreshold 2 set part 106 are compared, and it is set to deltaL1>=deltaL2. When set to deltaL1>=deltaL2, it progresses to Step S203. Otherwise, a noticed picture element is moved to the following unsettled pixel.

[0032]The 1st threshold deltaL2 is a value for narrowing down the pixel number used as the determination object of whether for it to be a threshold for judging a possibility that a noticed picture element is a dust noise, and to be a dust noise performed successively after this. Since

it is a value for narrowing down, the purpose can be attained if the value of the 1st threshold deltaL2 is larger than zero, and it is 1, for example (a gradation level shall be expressed with integers, such as 0~255). In addition, as a deciding method of the 1st threshold deltaL2, For example, the comparatively uniform local images which do not include the boundary of an object are experimentally gained from natural pictures etc., the gradation level deltaL1 (deltaL1R) in there is computed by an upper formula, and how to determine the minimum numerical value used as deltaL1 R<delta L2 as deltaL2 etc. can be considered.

[0033]The deltaL2 set part 106 can consist of memories which memorize the value inputted beforehand.

[0034]In Step S203, the pixel of the range of the radius set as the radius set part 107 by the object picture element extraction part 108 focusing on the noticed picture element is extracted as an object picture element. For example, in the case of drawing 3, it can be called the object picture element of the radius 2 centering on a noticed picture element.

[0035]The extraction method of an object picture element is not having restricted to the above-mentioned example, and inside [it is a noticed picture element and an adjacent pixel of the four directions] may extract either as an object picture element at least. The pixel which left 2 pixels or more may be extracted from a noticed picture element. However, it is restricted to the range of the neighborhood which also mentioned this range above. The operation [extract / not only / literally] which sets the state where same processing can be performed to having extracted substantially of memorizing the address of the pixel in an image memory, for example, and making reference possible if needed is also included in extraction here.

[0036]Next, in Step S204, the concentration frequency distribution of the pixel group extracted by the object picture element extraction part 108 is created.

[0037]In the case of color image data, in creation of the above-mentioned concentration frequency distribution, any 1 color is used among each RGB color ingredients, for example.

[0038]Next, the frequency of the image data for every gradation range set as the level width set part 110 at Step S205 is computed, and the rate (rate of flatness) over the total pixel number of the largest thing of frequency is searched for. For example, the case where the concentration frequency distribution of drawing 3 is expressed with drawing 4 is considered. When the level width set as the level width set part 110 is 10, the concentration frequency in each tonal range is as follows.

[0039]

gradation level Concentration frequencies 0~9 01~10 02~11 0...26~35 1...38~47 1639~48 1940~49 1941~50 19 ... 87~ 96188~ 97 2...246~255 0 -- and. Rate F1of flatness =0.76 is calculated by dividing the concentration frequency 19 with the largest value by the total pixel number 25 among these concentration frequencies.

[0040]Calculation which calculates rate F1 of flatness from concentration frequency distribution is performed by the rate calculation part 111 of flatness. Next, in Step S206, it is judged whether by the defect pixel judgment part 113, the 2nd threshold F2 and rate F1 of flatness that were set up by the 2nd threshold F2 set part 112 are compared, and it is set to F1>=F2. When set to F1>=F2, it progresses to Step S207. Otherwise, a noticed picture element is moved to the following unsettled pixel.

[0041]The 2nd threshold F2 is a threshold for judging the surface smoothness of a reference pixel group, and is a value for judging whether a dust noise exists in an object picture element group. As a deciding method of the 2nd threshold F2, gain experimentally the comparatively uniform local images which do not include the boundary of an object from natural pictures etc., for example, and gradation level F1 (F1R) in there is computed by an upper formula, How to determine the minimum numerical value used as deltaF1R<F2 as F2 etc. can be considered.

[0042]Next, at Step S207, a defect pixel is extracted out of an object image, and correction processing is performed from a normal region portion without a defect. An adjusted value is first computed about the pixel in an object picture element group from the gradation level of two or more pixels used in order to calculate rate F1 of flatness. A pixel with a larger gradation level difference with this adjusted value than the threshold deltaF3 set as the deltaFgradation level difference threshold value 3 set part 114 is extracted as a defect pixel. Next, the defect pixel is replaced by the adjusted value calculated previously.

[0043]Calculation of an adjusted value, extraction of a defect pixel, and correction processing of a defect pixel are performed by the defect pixel corrected part 115. It explains in detail, using drawing 4 about a case with a radius [like the point] of 2 pixels as an example as this correction disposal method. First, the range pixel which exists in the biggest level width, for

example, 40-49, of the concentration frequency for which it asked at Step S205 is extracted. Next, the average value 45 of these pixels is calculated. When the threshold deltaF3 is set to 10, four pixels which had 55 or more gradation levels which added threshold F3=10 in the average value 45 like the point are extracted as a defect pixel. It means that the defect pixel was corrected by replacing these four defect pixels by the adjusted value 45.

[0044]In the upper example, the biggest gradation level of concentration frequency is very good in the average value of the pixel which exists in the range of 39-50 in this case, although three, 39-48, 40-49, 41-50, exist. In the case of color image data, it has also come out to make each color component of a defect pixel into a new value by the average value calculated for every color component of the pixel used for averaging.

[0045]The correcting method of a defect pixel may not be having restricted to the above-mentioned example, but the method which is replaced with the mean value of the pixel group used for calculation of a criterion value, or has been replaced enough and carried out with the picture element data nearest to the average value of an object picture element group may be sufficient as it. However, since the correlativity of local images is used also for amendment of a defect pixel as mentioned above, a radius cannot be set up indefinitely. What can be set up needs to be the range which can expect correlativity, i.e., the neighborhood picture element which is defect pixels.

[0046]It judges whether at Step S208, processing was made to all the pixels, and when not made, a noticed picture element is moved to the following unsettled pixel.

[0047]When judged with all the pixels having been processed at Step S208, processing of the 1st example is ended.

[0048]The dust noise which exists in image data as mentioned above can be detected automatically and efficiently, and can be removed. Detection of a dust noise is performed extracting gradually the number of the pixels which serve as a candidate. And since it does not need to perform decision processing detailed about all the pixels since the judgment which processing takes time is performed in the stage which extracted the pixel number to some extent, and it can detect two or more noise pixels from one more noticed picture element, it can shorten the time which total noise detection and correction take.

[0049]That is, in each stage, the candidate of a noise is detected for a noticed picture element based on the gradation level difference of a noticed picture element and its neighborhood picture element. And it asks for the concentration homogeneity of the pixel of the neighborhood within the limits, and a defect pixel is judged based on the rate of homogeneity. If a defect pixel is extracted eventually, the gradation level of the pixel of the range will amend the defect pixel soon. At this time, in the stage of the beginning of noise detection, the range will be narrowed soon, the increase in efficiency of processing is attained, the range will be extended soon and highly precise-ization of the judgment is attained in the advanced stage. Furthermore in the stage of amendment of a pixel, local continuity with an adjacent pixel can be given to a defect pixel by amending a defect pixel soon using the gradation level of a pixel within the limits.

[0050](A 2nd embodiment) Drawing 5, drawing 6, and drawing 7 explain the image processing method and image processing device which are a 2nd embodiment of this invention. Drawing 5 is a block diagram showing the functional constitution of an image processing device, gives the same numerals to the block of the same function as a 1st embodiment, and omits explanation. In drawing 5, 1st rate F1 of flatness and the 2nd rate of flatness F2 calculation part, and 503 are rate threshold of flatness F3 set parts the image processing portion which applied this invention 501, and 502.

[0051]In the above-mentioned composition, a portion which is different from a 1st embodiment about the image processing method in a 2nd embodiment is explained, referring to drawing 6 in which the flow chart and concentration frequency distribution of drawing 6 are shown. Also in drawing 6, explanation is omitted about the same processing as drawing 2 of a 1st embodiment.

[0052]In a 2nd embodiment, the frequency of the image data for every gradation range set as the level width set part 110 is computed in Step S601, The 2nd which exist in the rate (rate F1 of flatness) over the total number of object picture elements of the pixel number which exists in the largest gradation level width of frequency, and the gradation level width which does not overlap with the above-mentioned level width is asked for the rate (rate F2 of flatness) over the total number of object picture elements of frequency. For example, the case of concentration-frequency-distribution drawing 7 of the noise picture which exists in the edge part of an object is considered. When the level width set as the level width set part 110 is 20, the concentration frequency in each tonal range is as follows.

[0053]

gradation level Concentration frequencies 0–19 31–20 32–21 4...12–31 8...81–100 13...181 to 2001...246–255 0 — and. The 1st rate F1 of flatness =0.52 is calculated by breaking the concentration frequency 13 with the largest value by a total of 25 object picture elements among these concentration frequencies. Next, the 2nd rate of flatness F2=0.32 is calculated by breaking 8 whose concentration frequency is [2nd] the largest by a total of 25 object picture elements in the range which does not overlap with the gradation level ranges 81–100 in which the largest concentration frequency exists. Calculation which asks for 1st rate F1 of flatness and the 2nd rate F2 of flatness from concentration frequency distribution is performed by rate F1 of flatness, and the F2 calculation part 502.

[0054]Next, in Step S602, it is judged whether by the defect pixel judgment part 113, the rate threshold F3 of flatness, 1st rate F1 of flatness, and the 2nd rate F2 of flatness which were set up by the rate threshold of flatness F3 set part 503 are compared, and it is set to $F1 \geq F3$ and $F2 \geq F3$. When set to $F1 \geq F3$ and $F2 \geq F3$, it progresses to Step S603. Otherwise, a noticed picture element is moved to the following unsettled pixel.

[0055]Next, at Step S603, a defect pixel is extracted out of an object image, and correction processing is performed from a normal region portion without a defect. The 1st adjusted value R1 and 2nd adjusted value R2 are first computed about the pixel in an object picture element group, respectively from the gradation level of two or more pixels used in order to ask for 1st rate F1 of flatness, and the 2nd rate F2 of flatness. R1=93 which averaged in the case of drawing 7 (for example, the gradation level of the pixel to which the 1st adjusted value R1 exists in the gradation level width 81–100), and R2=21 which averaged the gradation level of the pixel to which the 2nd adjusted value R2 exists in the gradation level width 12–31 can be found. A pixel with a larger gradation level difference with this 1st adjusted value R1 and 2nd adjusted value R2 than the threshold deltaF3 both set as the deltaFgradation level difference threshold value 3 set part 114 is extracted as a defect pixel. Next, the defect pixel is replaced by the 1st adjusted value R1 calculated previously.

[0056]Calculation of the 1st and 2nd adjusted values, extraction of a defect pixel, and correction processing of a defect pixel are performed by the defect pixel corrected part 115. The following operations are the same as that of a 1st embodiment.

[0057]In the case of this embodiment, even if it is a noise which exists in the edge part of an object, it can judge that a noticed picture element and the pixel of the neighborhood are noises by seeing two surface smoothness.

[0058]

[Effect of the Invention]As explained above, according to this invention, it becomes possible to shorten correction processing time substantially, without becoming possible to detect only the dust noise by dust etc. automatically as a defect pixel, and to correct it, and causing degradation of a picture.

[Translation done.]

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- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS**[Brief Description of the Drawings]**

[Drawing 1]It is a block diagram of the image processing device in a 1st embodiment of this invention.

[Drawing 2]It is a flow chart explaining the operation in a 1st embodiment of this invention.

[Drawing 3]It is a figure showing the picture-element-data arrangement in a 1st embodiment of this invention.

[Drawing 4]It is an example of concentration frequency distribution of the picture element data in a 1st embodiment of this invention.

[Drawing 5]It is a block diagram of the image processing device in a 2nd embodiment of this invention.

[Drawing 6]It is a flow chart explaining the operation in a 2nd embodiment of this invention.

[Drawing 7]It is an example of concentration frequency distribution of the picture element data in a 2nd embodiment of this invention.

[Description of Notations]

101 Image reader

102 Image processing portion

103 Interface (I/F)

104 Image memory

105 deltaLgradation level difference 1 calculation part

106 deltaLgradation level difference threshold value 2 set part

107 Radius set part

[Translation done.]

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(22)出願日 平成14年5月21日 (2002.5.21)			(57)【要約】

【課題】

画像データに含まれるダストノイズを欠陥画素として自動的に検出して修正することで、ダストノイズの修正処理時間を大幅に短縮することとともに、画像データの画素の生産性を向上させ、さらには画像データの読み込みから出力までの一連の自動処理においてもリスト

ノイズの除去を付加できる画像処理方法及び画像処理装置を提供すること。

【解決手段】 任意の注目画素と近傍画素を比較して所定の条件を満たす注目画素と合わせて該当範囲の画素を該当範囲として抽出する。抽出した対象画素についてヒストグラムを作成し、ヒストグラムの特性から所持画素の平均性を確認し、所持画素に欠陥画素が含まれていることを確認する。欠陥画素が含まれている場合には所持の条件に従って決定した補正値との階調レベルが別途の条件を満たす画素を欠陥画素として抽出し、欠陥画素を補正値で置換する。

【請求項1】 前記注目画素は、前記注目画素を中心とした一定範囲内にある画素群であることを特徴とする請求項1または2に記載の画像処理方法。

【請求項2】 前記注目画素は、前記注目画素を中心とした一定範囲内における画素群であることを特徴とする請求項1または2に記載の画像処理方法。

【請求項3】 前記注目画素は、前記注目画素を中心とした一定範囲内における画素群であることを特徴とする請求項1または2に記載の画像処理方法。

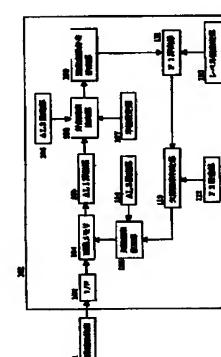
【請求項4】 前記注目画素は、前記注目画素を中心とした一定範囲内における画素群であることを特徴とする請求項1または2に記載の画像処理方法。

【請求項5】 前記注目画素は、前記注目画素を中心とした一定範囲内における画素群であることを特徴とする請求項1または2に記載の画像処理方法。

【請求項6】 前記注目画素は、前記注目画素を中心とした一定範囲内における画素群であることを特徴とする請求項1または2に記載の画像処理方法。

【請求項7】 前記注目画素は、前記注目画素を中心とした一定範囲内における画素群であることを特徴とする請求項1または2に記載の画像処理方法。

【請求項8】 前記注目画素は、前記注目画素を中心とした一定範囲内における画素群であることを特徴とする請求項1または2に記載の画像処理方法。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 画像により構成される画像データを処理する画像処理方法であって、前記画像データから、近傍画素との階調レベルとの差の差が第1の閾値以上となる注目画素と合む対象画素群を検出する対象画素検出工程と、

前記対象画素検出工程のうち、前記濃度分布に基づいて判定基準を求め、該判定基準が第2の閾値以上となる場合に前記対象画素群が欠陥画素を含んでいたものと判定する修正工程と、

前記対象画素検出工程のうち、前記濃度分布に基づいて抽出し、該欠陥画素を前記修正工程用いて修正する修正工程とを備えることを特徴とする画像処理方法。

【請求項2】 画像により構成される画像データを処理する画像処理方法であって、前記画像データから、近傍画素との差の差が第1の閾値以上である注目画素を前記修正工程用いて抽出し、該欠陥画素を前記修正工程とを備える修正工程とを備えることを特徴とする画像処理方法。

【請求項3】 画像により構成される画像データを処理する画像処理方法であって、前記画像データから、近傍画素との階調レベルとの差の差が第1の閾値以上となる注目画素を前記修正工程用いて抽出し、該欠陥画素を前記修正工程とを備える修正工程とを備えることを特徴とする画像処理方法。

【請求項4】 画像により構成される画像データを処理する画像処理方法であって、前記画像データから、近傍画素との差の差が第1の閾値以上となる注目画素を前記修正工程用いて抽出し、該欠陥画素を前記修正工程とを備える修正工程とを備えることを特徴とする画像処理方法。

【請求項5】 画像により構成される画像データを処理する画像処理方法であって、前記画像データから、近傍画素との差の差が第1の閾値以上となる注目画素を前記修正工程用いて抽出し、該欠陥画素を前記修正工程とを備える修正工程とを備えることを特徴とする画像処理方法。

【請求項6】 画像により構成される画像データを処理する画像処理方法であって、前記画像データから、近傍画素との差の差が第1の閾値以上となる注目画素を前記修正工程用いて抽出し、該欠陥画素を前記修正工程とを備える修正工程とを備えることを特徴とする画像処理方法。

【請求項7】 画像により構成される画像データを処理する画像処理方法であって、前記画像データから、近傍画素との差の差が第1の閾値以上となる注目画素を前記修正工程用いて抽出し、該欠陥画素を前記修正工程とを備える修正工程とを備えることを特徴とする画像処理方法。

【請求項8】 前記注目画素は、前記注目画素を中心とした一定範囲内における画素群であることを特徴とする請求項1または2に記載の画像処理方法。

【請求項9】 前記修正工程において、前記注目画素を中心とした一定範囲内における画素群を抽出し、該欠陥画素を前記修正工程用いて抽出する。

【請求項10】 前記修正工程において、前記注目画素を中心とした一定範囲内における画素群を抽出し、該欠陥画素を前記修正工程用いて抽出する。

【請求項11】 前記修正工程において、前記注目画素を中心とした一定範囲内における画素群を抽出し、該欠陥画素を前記修正工程用いて抽出する。

【請求項12】 前記修正工程において、前記注目画素を中心とした一定範囲内における画素群を抽出し、該欠陥画素を前記修正工程用いて抽出する。

【請求項13】 前記修正工程において、前記注目画素を中心とした一定範囲内における画素群を抽出し、該欠陥画素を前記修正工程用いて抽出する。

【請求項14】 前記修正工程において、前記注目画素を中心とした一定範囲内における画素群を抽出し、該欠陥画素を前記修正工程用いて抽出する。

【請求項15】 前記修正工程において、前記注目画素を中心とした一定範囲内における画素群を抽出し、該欠陥画素を前記修正工程用いて抽出する。

【解説本題 1-6】 前記修正値は、前記判定基準を算出するたために用いられる画素の平均値として与えられるることを特徴とする請求項 10または 11に記載の画像処理方法装置。

【解説本題 1-7】 前記修正値は、前記判定基準を算出するたために用いられる画素の平均値として与えられることに対する割合となるようコンピュータを構成せることを特徴とする請求項 19または 20に記載のコンピュータプログラム。

【解説本題 2-3】 前記第 1及び第 2の判定基準値は、前記判定基準を算出するたために用いられる画素の平均値として与えられることを特徴とする請求項 1-7に記載の画像処理装置。

するためには、用いられる画素の平均値として与えられることを特徴とする請求項 10または11に記載の画像処理方法装置。

【請求項 11】 前記修正装置は、前記判定基準値を算出するためには、用いられる画素の所与の階級範囲の中间値として与えられることを特徴とする請求項 10または11に記載の画像処理装置。

【請求項 12】 前記修正工程において、前記次修画素を算出するためには、用いられる画素の平均値として与えられることを特徴とする請求項 10または11に記載の画像処理方法装置。

【請求項 13】 前記第 1 号がある。この二段階式方法では、注目画素を中心とした所定の大きさの要素位で画像データを走査する際、その値を複数のブロックに分割し、注目画素との階調レベル差が第 3 の閾値以上となる画素がブロック内に第 2 の閾値以上の数だけ存在する場合にそのブロックのバーコード判定が行なわれる場合に注目画素をノイズと判定する。次に、窓内の画素に就いて注目画素との階調レベル差が第 3 の閾値以上である画素を所定のレベル範囲で分類し、そのレベル範囲で修正値を比較した結果から補正値を求め、注目画素データとそれを用いた修正値を組み合わせて得られた修正値を算出するためには、用いられる画素の平均値として与えられるよ

[講状項1.8] 前記修正工程において、前記第1及び第2の判定基準値を算出するために用られた第1及び第2の画素数を比較することで、第1もしくは第2の修正値を算出し、欠陥画素を検出することを特徴とする請求項1に記載の画像処理装置。

【請求項 28】 請求項 1 ～ 26 のいずれか 1 項に記載のコンピュータプログラムを実施することを特徴とするコンピュータープログラム。
【請求項 29】 コンピュータを、
前記画像データから、後述画素との閾値レベルの差が第
1 の閾値以上となる直面画素を含む対象画素群を検出し
る対象画素群検出手段、
前記対象画素群が記述される濃度度数分布に基づいて第
1 及び第 2 の閾値を算出するため、複数 1 及び複数 2 の閾値基
準及び複数 3 の閾値を算出するため、複数 3 の閾値基準

【従来の技術】一般的に、電子画像データを生成する手法のひとつとして、原稿に描かれた書類をスキャナなどの画像入力装置を用いて電子データ化るものがある。この手法では簡便に画像データを生成するものの、原稿に付着したホコリや、画像入力装置の読み取り面に付着した汚れなども画像データとして読み取られてしまう。このため、本米画像の成分ではなく、ノイズとしてその方

【請求項21】 前記装置において、前記過渡度分布を算出するための計算装置は、前記過渡度分布を算出するための計算装置であるようコンピュータを構成させることを特徴とする請求項19または20に記載のコンピュータプログラム。

【請求項22】 前記装置において、前記過渡度分布を算出するための計算装置は、前記過渡度分布を算出するための計算装置であるようコンピュータを構成させることを特徴とする請求項19または20に記載のコンピュータプログラム。

【0003】 このような、ノイズ除去方法としてノイズとと思われる注目画素に対してその周囲の隣接データの平均値を取つたりするような手法が取り扱っていた。

【0004】 また処理対象画像に対してノイズを識別し、そのノイズに対して除去処理を施すものとして特許

[0005] 「発明が解決しようとする課題」しかしながら、注目すべき事項に対して周囲の技術データの平均性をとる手法でそのままプロジェクトの構成がボケたりするなどのノイズ以外の画像を分析せてしまふ問題がありました。特許平4-316215号のような修正方法では、画像を構成する全

ノイズを抽出するのに時間が掛かってしまう。また、ノイズと判断された1つの画素に対して隣接する他の画素レベルを複数の画素から求めなければならない。このやり方では時間が要してしまう。

【0006】本実用は、斯かる点に着目してなされたもので、そのまま直角データに含まれるダストノイズを除去する目的で直角データに含まれるダストノイズを修正することによっても簡単に直角データを大容量に複数することができる。したがって、直角データの生成速度向上させ、さらには直角データの修正が容易となる。

[0 0 0 8] (a) 直接データの任意の画素と、前記第1の算出工具結果に基づいて、所定の第1の範囲以上となる任意の画素と、前記第1の範囲以上となる任意の画素を中心とした近傍画素などを対象画素として抽出する第1の抽出基準。
算出工具

[0 0 0 9] (b) 前記第1の算出工具結果に基づいて、所定の第1の範囲以上となる任意の画素と、前記第1の範囲以上となる任意の画素を中心とした近傍画素などを対象画素として抽出する第1の抽出基準。

[0 0 1 0] (c) 前記対象画素で構成される邊度差値とする第1の抽出基準。

第2の算出工程。
【0011】(d) 前記第2の算出工程に基づいて、前記判定基準値が所定の第2の閾値以上となる場合に前記国際標準が欠陥画素を含んでいると判定する第1の判断工程。

【0012】(e) 前記対象画面に関する、前記修正正直との階層レベル差が所定の第3の範囲以上となる画像を一次画像として抽出する第2の抽出加工。

【0013】(f) 前記次級画像を、前記修正正直を用いて修正する修正加工。

【0014】また、本構成における第2回に記載の発明の特徴とするところは、以下により記載される画像処理方法、及び画像処理装置にある。

【0015】(a) 画像データの任意の画素と、前記任意の画素の上または下及び左または右の画素を、または左上、左下、右上、右下の画素等、第1の

[0016] (b) 前記第1の抽出工場絶縁に基づいて、所定の第1の確度以上となる任性的画素と、前記任意の画素を中心とした近傍画素とを対象要素として抽出する第1の抽出工場。
 [0017] (c) 前記対象画素で構成される確度較する第1の抽出工場。

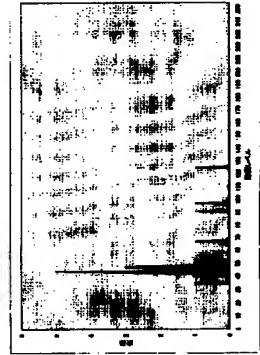
1及び第2の修正値を算出する第2の算出工程。
[0018] (d) 前記第2の算出工程に基づいて、前記1及び第2の判定基準が所定の第2の閾値以上となる場合に前記対象画面が欠陥画面であると判定する第1の判定工程。
[0019] (e) 前記対象画面に関する、前記第1及び第2の修正値の算出レベル差がともに所定の第3の閾値以上となる画面を欠陥画面として抽出する第2の抽出工程。

[0022] これにより画像劣化を防ぎ、かつ1つの表示面から複数のダストノイズ画面を抑制、修正処理を行うことができる。トータルのダストノイズ除去及び修正処理にかかる時間も短縮させることができる。

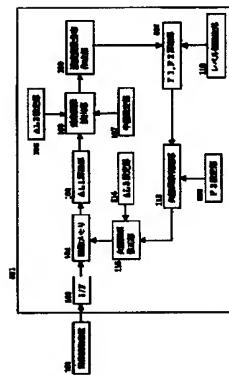
[0023]

【0024】(第1の実施形態)図1は本発明を適用した画像処理装置の構成かつ具体的な説明する。
図1は構成要素1-02を構えた画像処理装置の構成模式である。図1において、1-01は画像表示モニタ、1-02が読み取りを行ひ可視化表示装置である。面像映像表示モニタ

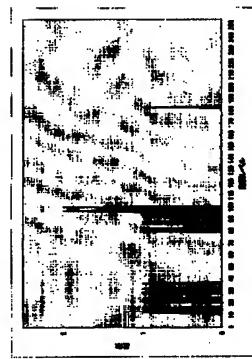
[図4]



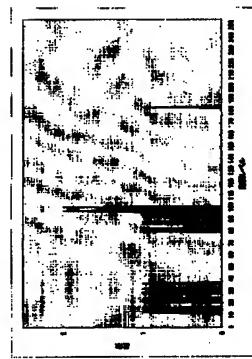
[図5]



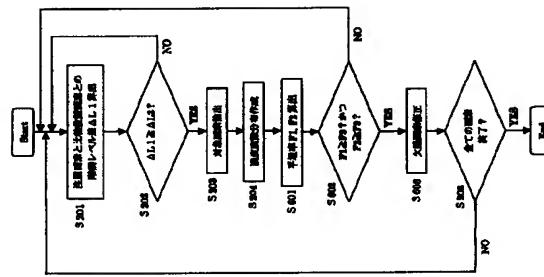
[図6]



[図7]



[図8]



フロントページの焼き

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DC23
52072 AA01 BA15 PB11 UA14
52077 LJ02 MM03 PP32 PP47 PP61
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SS01